

# VOTE

## 2010 ELECTION DATES

- **February 23, 2010 – Local Elections**
  - Register by January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- **May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Local Elections**
  - Register by April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 – State Primary**
  - Register by July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- **November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 – General Election**
  - Register by October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### To Register to Vote You Must Be:

- A resident of Michigan and the city or Township where you are applying to register to vote
- A citizen of the United States of America
- At least 18 years of age by election day
- Not serving a sentence in jail or prison

*Did you know that Michigan ranks 21<sup>st</sup> of the fifty states in women's participation in the Legislature in 2009 and that Governor Jennifer M. Granholm is one of the 6 women governors?*

*- Center for American Women & Politics*

### Registering to Vote in Michigan:

Your voter registration and driver license address must be the same, and you must complete the State of Michigan Voter Registration Application, available from your county clerk or on the web at

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos>

#### Voter Registration Sites:

- Secretary of State Branches
- County Clerk's Office
- City/township Clerk's Office

**If you register to vote in Michigan for the first time**, you must meet new identification requirements provided under federal law. You must accurately enter your state-issued driver license number or personal ID card number, or send a copy of a paycheck stub or a government document that lists your name and address. The identification requirement does not apply if (1) you personally hand deliver the registration application form to your county, city, or township clerk's office instead of mailing this form (2) you are disabled or (3) you are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

## Why Vote?

**Voting is the easiest way to be involved in the decisions that impact you, such as:**

- Health Insurance
- Domestic Violence
- Employment
- Education
- Economic Empowerment

### To Vote by Absentee Ballot:

As a **registered** voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are:

- Age 60 years old or older
- Unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another person
- Expecting to be out of town on election day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates or ask for an absentee ballot in person. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are handicapped or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

### Requesting an Absentee Voter Ballot:

Your request for an absentee voter ballot must be in writing and must be submitted to your city or township clerk. (For assistance in obtaining the address of your city or township clerk, see <http://www.michigan.gov/vote>)

Your request must include one of the six statutory reasons stated above and your signature. You must request an absentee voter ballot by mailing the online application, a letter, a postcard, or a pre-printed application form obtained from your local clerk's office. Application can be submitted via fax, scanned email, mail, or hand delivered.

# RUN FOR OFFICE

## *Women in public office*

In the last 100 years, women in government have made great strides –from the 19th amendment which granted women the right to vote, to the first African American woman elected in the U.S. Senate, Carol Moseley Braun, to Michigan’s first female Governor, Jennifer M. Granholm. Unfortunately, in Michigan, the number of women in public office is declining.

### **Women in government are needed because:**

- Constituents benefit greatly when there is a broad representation of public office holders.
- Women can help to develop policies which take into account the needs of all constituents, including the unique needs of women.
- Women in office serve as leaders, mentors, role models and guides for other women.

### **Women make good candidates. They tackle tough issues, such as:**

- health
- school safety and anti-bullying
- campaign finance reform
- anti-discrimination
- pay equity
- literacy
- child care standards and funding

## *Does this sound like you? Then you should consider running for office!*

Some things to consider before you run:

- What do you want to do to improve the quality of life in your area?
- Are these issues that you are passionate about? Can you convey these issues to others?
- Are you respected? Why?
- Consider your public image and public speaking abilities

- Consider how running will affect your family and work
- Assessing your knowledge of issues relevant to constituents
- Choosing which race is right for you
- Is there an open seat or weak incumbent?
- Financing your campaign
- Constructing your campaign

## *What office should you run for?*

So maybe you don’t want to run for U.S. Congress! There are plenty of locally elected positions that need passionate, qualified candidates, including:

- School Board
- Library Board
- City Council
- Village Council
- Mayor
- County Clerk
- County Commissioner
- Michigan Senate
- Michigan House of Representatives

### ***REMEMBER!***

Even if you have no desire to run for office, it is important to encourage other women to run. Talk to friends, coworkers, and family. Work on a campaign. Most importantly, make sure to VOTE!

#### *Sources:*

Campbell & Wolbrecht, 2006, *The Journal of Politics* 68 (2),  
Gerrity, J. et al., 2007, *Politics and Gender* 3 (2),  
Fraga, L. et al., 2007, *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy* 28 (3/4),  
Michigan Department of Secretary of State.

# RESOURCES

## *Voter Registration:*

**The Michigan Secretary of State**

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos>

## *Political Parties:*

**Green Party of Michigan**

<http://migreens.org>

**Libertarian Party of Michigan**

<http://www.mi.lp.org>

**Michigan Democratic Party**

<http://www.michigandems.com>

**Michigan Republican Party**

<http://www.migop.org>

**Natural Law Party**

<http://www.natural-law.org/>

**U.S. Taxpayers Party of Michigan**

<http://www.ustpm.org>

## *Additional Resources:*

**Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University**

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>

**Center for Political Leadership**

<http://www.progressleaders.org>

**EMILY's List**

<http://www.emilyslist.org>

**International Women's Democracy Center**

<http://www.iwdc.org>

**Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP)**

<http://www.ippsr.msu.edu/MPLP/>

**National Federation of Republican Women**

<http://www.nfre.org>

**Republican Women's Federation of Michigan**

<http://www.rwfm.net>

**The National Women's Political Caucus**

<http://www.nwpc.org>

**The Susan B. Anthony List**

<http://www.sba-list.org>

**The White House Project**

<http://www.thewhitehouseproject.org>

**Women's Campaign Forum**

<http://www.wcfonline.org>

*For a complete list of Michigan women's organizations, please go to the Michigan Women's Commission Website at [www.michigan.gov/mdcr](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr)*

*Did you know that as of 2009, Michigan women hold 23.7 percent of the seats in the State Senate and 25.4 percent of the seats in the State House of Representatives?*

*Nationally, in 2009, 24.3% of the 7,382 state legislators are women.*

*- Michigan Women's Commission*

Prepared by:

Michigan Women's Commission

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